

Philip Rothstein 5/21/73
Wiretaps Admitted

New York — (AP) — Federal officials yesterday admitted conversations of a radical lawyer had been recorded between 1955 and 1970 over wiretaps by the FBI.

An affidavit filed in U.S. District Court by an official of the U.S. Attorney's office said conversations between the lawyer, Arthur Kinoy, and unidentified persons had been overheard 23 times.

The government document said 14 of the conversations were ones in which Kinoy was "incidentally overheard" and nine of them involved "foreign affairs." The wiretaps were supervised by the FBI, the government said.

The affidavit was filed after Kinoy had registered a complaint that the Government had placed illegal taps on his phones.

Cursory Check

U. S. Attorney Whitney North Seymour Jr. said yesterday that a Justice Department official had denied the taps in 1970 after making only a cursory check of wiretap records. A thorough search turned up the subsequent information, he said.

Kinoy said he presumed he had been overheard in conversations with persons such as the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and defendants in the Chicago Seven trial, in which he was a defense lawyer.

Kinoy is a colleague of William Kunstler.

A case before the U.S. Supreme Court that ended last June with a decision that wiretapping of domestic radicals without court orders was unconstitutional was argued by Kinoy.

"While I was leading the case against illegal wiretapping, they were wiretapping me," he commented yesterday.